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A composition including a first nucleic acid construct in which expression of a first gene is controlled by a first promoter whose function is suppressed in non-tumor cells, and a second nucleic acid construct in which expression of a second gene for down-regulating the first gene in non-tumor cells is controlled by a second promoter that is up-regulated in non-tumor cells.

- 2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein expression of said second gene produces an antisense RNA transcript complementary to a sequence within mRNA produced on transcription of said first gene.
- 3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein expression of said second gene produces a ribozyme specific for a sequence within mRNA produced on transcription of said first gene.
- 4. A composition according to claim wherein expression of said second gene produces a sequence-specific transcriptional suppressor and said first nucleic acid construct includes a binding site sequence for the suppressor.
- 5. A composition according to claim 4 wherein said sequence-specific transcriptional suppressor is a *lac* operator suppressor.
- 6. A composition according to claim 4 wherein said sequence specific transcriptional suppressor includes a *tet* repressor DNA-binding domain and a suppression domain of the *Drosphilia* KRAB transcription factor.

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- 7. A composition according to claim 4 wherein said sequence-specific transcriptional suppressor includes a Gal-4 DNA-binding domain and a suppression domain of the *Drosphilia even-skipped* transcription factor.
- 8. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u> wherein said first nucleic acid construct and said second nucleic acid construct are each on separate nucleic acid vectors.
- 9. (Amended) A composition according to [any of claims 1 to 8] <u>claim 1</u> wherein said first nucleic acid construct and said second nucleic acid construct are on the same nucleic acid vector.
- 10. A composition according to claim 9 including an insulator sequence between said first nucleic acid construct and said second nucleic acid construct.
- 11. (Amended) A composition according to [claim 9 or] claim 10 wherein a said nucleic acid vector is a viral vector.
- 12. (Amended) A composition according to [any of the preceding claims] <u>claim 1</u> wherein said second nucleic acid construct includes a p53 binding site sequence or CMB promoter.
- 13. A composition according to claim 12 wherein said second nucleic acid construct includes said p53 binding site sequence downstream of a TATA Box and transcriptional start site of the second promoter.

- 14. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u> wherein said first promoter is up-regulated in tumor cells.
- 15. A composition according to claim 14 wherein said first promoter is the HSP70 promoter.
- 16. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u> wherein said first gene is a reporter gene.
- 17. (Amended) A composition according to [any of claims 1 to 15] <u>claim 1</u> wherein said first gene encodes an antitumour agent.
- 18. A composition according to claim 17 wherein said antitumour agent is a pro-drug activating enzyme.
- 19. A composition according to claim 18 wherein said pro-drug activating enzyme is a thymidine kinase.
- 20. (Amended) A cell containing a first nucleic acid construct and a second nucleic acid construct of a composition according to [any preceding] claim 1.

21. A cell according to claim 20 which is a tumor cell.

22. (Amended) A method comprising introduction of a first nucleic acid construct and a second nucleic acid construct of a composition according to [any of claims 1 to 19] <u>claim 1</u> into a cell.

